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E69

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-00	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ECA-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-00	G-00	NEAT-00	SAS-00	/004W		

-----D2B09A 191448Z /38

O 191440Z DEC 03

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4277

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
B6

UNCLAS CARACAS 004388

SENSITIVE

NSC FOR CBARTON

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, KDEM, VE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION DELIVERS 3.4 MILLION SIGNATURES TO CNE

REF: CARACAS 4370

1. (U) IN THE EARLY MORNING OF DECEMBER 19, THE OPPOSITION DELIVERED 3,467,050 SIGNATURES CALLING FOR A RECALL VOTE ON PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ TO THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CNE). SOME 300 VOLUNTEERS TRANSFERRED THE 250 BOXES OF SIGNATURES AND 250 BOXES OF COPIES IN A CARAVAN FROM THE FACILITY OPERATED BY THE NGO SUMATE IN EASTERN CARACAS TO CNE HEADQUARTERS. ELEMENTS OF THE SUCRE POLICE, CHACAO POLICE, AND METROPOLITAN POLICE OF CARACAS REPORTEDLY SECURED THE CARAVAN ROUTE. THE NATIONAL GUARD PROVIDED INCREASED

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SECURITY FOR THE DELIVERY AT THE CNE SITE. THE CNE BOARD MET BRIEFLY WITH THE VOLUNTEERS TO RECEIVE THE BOXES. THREE OAS AND TWO CARTER CENTER OBSERVERS WERE ON HAND TO WITNESS THE DELIVERY.

2. (SBU) THE OPPOSITION IS CONCERNED ABOUT DELAYS IN STARTING THE PROCESS EVEN THOUGH CNE RULES SAY THE PROCESS MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM THE PRESENTATION, ACCORDING TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DCC). [REDACTED] WHO PERSONALLY SAW OFF THE BOXES FROM THE NGO SUMATE FACILITY, SAID THE CNE WILL DECIDE WHEN THE FORMAL 30-DAY VERIFICATION PROCESS STARTS.

B6

MCFARLAND

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